Death of animals in Zoological Parks

726. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Conditions of animals in Captivity at various Zoological Parks is very bad and need overall improvement;

(b) whether the Central Government have set up a high powered team of experts to probe into the circumstances that lead to death of a dozen tigers at Orissx*s Nandankanan Zoo and of animals in Ranthambore in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed so far by the Central Zoo Authority and Orissa and Rajasthan Governments against the negligent staff in the above mentioned Zoos; if so, what action have been taken on the basis of enquiry Committee's Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Zoos are under the administrative control of State Forest Department, Municipal Corporations, Public Sector Undertakings and Industrial Houses. Due to paucity of funds general upkeep of animals, hygiene and sanitation is not upto the mark.

(b) The Central Government has sent a team of experts to ascertain the causes of the death of 12 tigers in Nandankanan Zoo, Bhubaneswar, Orissa. Because the deaths of deers in Ranthambore National Park are due to killings by dogs and other predators, no Committee has been set up for this area.

(c) The administrative set up of the Zoo and National Park is under the respective State Governments. The onus of fixing up the responsibility of any mishap is with the State Government only.